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~~EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT~~

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[Signature] Executive Secretary

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

July 25, 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR

Executive Secretary
Central Intelligence Agency

SUBJECT: Report of Meeting with President Eric A. Delvalle
of Panama (S)

Attached is a copy of the report on a meeting with President Delvalle of Panama with NSC and State Department officials which took place in New York City on July 15, 1988. (S)

Please provide this report to Martin Roeber, NIO for Latin America, for his information and for follow-on action that may be required. (S)



Paul Schott Stevens
Executive Secretary

Attachment

Tab A - Summary Report of Meeting
with President Delvalle of Panama (S)

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SUMMARY REPORT OF
MEETING WITH PRESIDENT DELVALLE OF PANAMA

Michael Kozak (State Department), U.S. Ambassador to Panama, Arthur Davis and Robert Pastorino (NSC Staff), met for two hours in New York on July 15 with Panamanian President Eric Delvalle. Delvalle made many of the points he made during his telephone call with President Reagan earlier in the day, especially with regard to the need for quick action by the United States to facilitate Noriega's departure. He was interested in the details of U.S. planning and pledged to continue to cooperate, asking where he could be helpful. He was in good spirits (apparently invigorated from his brief respite from hiding and a good medical check-up), expressed appreciation for the President's earlier call, and seemed ready to go back into hiding in Panama.

The first part of the meeting also included several of Delvalle's aides. During that time, the President presented a pessimistic picture of the situation in Panama, admitting that Noriega is not on the verge of toppling from power. Delvalle discussed various non-violent economic, diplomatic and psychological tactics and measures to effect Noriega's removal but admitted that he didn't think they would work. He seemed to conclude only force would be successful. He doubted the Panamanian people would take to the streets to overthrow the General, unless it was in support of some outside action.

Delvalle noted he had been approached by a Noriega representative to begin talks and asked whether his entrance into negotiations would interfere with U.S. plans. He said he had not yet responded to the approach but was thinking of "listening" to a possible Noriega proposal. Delvalle was categorical in saying that he didn't believe the Noriega problem could be resolved by a third country intermediary; such an intermediary wouldn't understand Panamanian internal problems, he said.

The latter part of the meeting involved Delvalle, Kozak and Pastorino only. Delvalle was interested in details of U.S. plans and Kozak and Pastorino informed him in general terms of current U.S. plans and repeated the President's commitment to continued U.S. support. Delvalle noted he knew people who would want to cooperate and stated that he wanted his efforts to be compatible with those of the U.S. Specifically, he stressed the need for a large, high-powered radio and said some visible action should take place right away in order to raise morale. Delvalle was offered a more detailed briefing at an appropriate time and was asked to call the NSC should he feel that plans were not proceeding or especially before making any major decisions involving his retirement as President. Kozak and Pastorino reiterated the importance of Delvalle remaining as President of Panama.

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